

**A STUDY ON THE ATTITUDES OF MARGARET,
THE MAIN CHARACTER OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS'
PLAY: CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF**

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in
English Language Teaching**



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ABSTRACT

Widjaja, Mieke Kesuma. A Study on the Attitudes of Margaret, the Main Character of Tennessee William's Play: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, S1 thesis, The English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University, Surabaya, 1995.

Literature can be expressed in the form of poems, novels, short stories, and drama. Related to the study under report, the literary form to be discussed here is drama.

Guided by the following three research questions:

(1) What types of attitudes does Margaret, the protagonist in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof display to herself and to the other character around her? (2) What factors make Margaret behave like that? and (3) How does Margaret show her attitudes toward other characters?, this study has attempted to describe (1) The types of attitudes that Margaret displays to herself and other characters around

her, (2) The factors that make Margaret behave like that, and (3) The way Margaret shows her attitudes toward herself and toward other characters around her.

Using a certain set of parameters, the writer analyzed Tennessee Williams' play: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof and found that

- A. Margaret, the main character, has certain kinds of attitudes which are considered to be annoying, for example: ill-mannered and ill-disposed. But she also has positive sides like respect older people and loving.
- B. There are two factors that make Margaret behave like the way she does in the story. First, concerning with herself. She experiences an inner conflict - she still haunted by her poor background of life, she is childless, her husband becomes drunkard. Second, Margaret experiences an external conflict. She does not have a good relationship with other characters around her. Margaret's environment unavoidably leads to her own problems of life.

C. Margaret's verbal expression is almost always accompanied by some violent actions like shouting and kicking the door shut.

Finally, the writer comes to the conclusion that Tennessee William wants to convey that a human being like Margaret who belongs to an unpeaceful environment tends to have such kinds of attitudes because she cannot escape from her own environment. She knows that realities are usually painful and requiring much exertions of life. Therefore, whenever such a person like Margaret tries to escape from her realities by becoming so catty and annoying to others, she will be ruined by her own attitudes.

Hopefully by reading this thesis, the reader will get some important illustrations about human kind with the problematic experiences in facing life realities and will encourage the reader to dig the literary world deeper because it presents a wide dimension of life, love and realities of human kind.